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Community *notes*

Thank You, Longfellow Parade

When Mary Kay asked if I would walk in the Longfellow Parade for Food for Tomorrow, I agreed knowing next to nothing about what I was getting myself into. I imagined walking the 2-mile loop, smiling through heavy rain and soggy sneakers, listening to a single tuna can rolling around in an empty truck bed. I would volunteer, I thought to myself, but I wouldn't get my hopes up.

With the sun shining and a nice breeze blowing, we scored the perfect day for a parade. Several people approached us to unload bags of food into the grocery carts before the parade began. I'm sure I looked like a fool but I couldn't stop smiling; my expectations were completely wrong. Hurray, I was wrong! Longfellow neighbors came out with hundreds of bags full of food. A little kid ran up to drop a can in the shopping cart, Mom right behind them with the rest of the loot. We rounded a corner and I heard, "I forgot the cans on the counter!" They ran back to the house and waved us down, grocery bag in hand. Each time I looked back the truck looked fuller, bins overflowing. Everybody was having such a great time.



It was overwhelmingly heart-warming to see my community come together to help those in need on such an important day for our nation. I can't think of a better way to spend my Fourth of July than helping the Howard County Food Bank collect 690 pounds of food from our wonderful neighbors. Thank you, Longfellow neighbors, for your generosity. Thank you for filling the shelves of our food bank and feeding our neighbors in need this summer. Thank you, Food for Tomorrow for this wonderful opportunity. I will be back next year ready for more.

- Julia

Greetings

We are in the midst of the summer season and there is a number of community events coming in the next few weeks. We've highlighted a few items in this week's edition. I hope that you will find something that you will enjoy.

Mary Kay

New County Government Website Launched

Howard County has a new interactive website, [Tax Credit Central](#), designed to help homeowners determine eligibility and apply for one or more of the county's residential tax credits.

On this webpage, homeowners can use the new Credit Eligibility Calculator to determine if they qualify for the tax reduction, explore all available tax credits and download application forms and relevant information regarding the application and screening processes for each of these credits.



Howard County currently offers an Aging-in-Place Tax Credit, a Senior Tax Credit, a Livable Homes Tax Credit and a credit against Trash, Bay and Stormwater Fees. In addition, the Maryland State Homeowners Tax Credit assists lower income residents in paying their taxes. All residential credits in one way or another assist seniors, individuals with disabilities, retired military and other lower income homeowners by lessening their property tax bill. Information pertaining to tax credits for commercial property owners is available on the website as well.

Also, property tax bills will be mailed by July 12th.
Click [here](#) for more information.

2017 Howard County Film Festival Summer Restaurant Weeks

Howard County has a rich agriculture history, making farming a vibrant part of our culture and economy today. [Howard County Restaurant Weeks](#) (July 24 - August 7) and the Film Festival celebrate the many resources available to Howard County residents to allow us to enjoy fresh, delicious and nutritious food grown by farmers right here in Howard County.

The University of Maryland Extension, Howard County Tourism & Promotion and the Howard County Economic Development Authority are pleased to invite you to the [Annual Howard County Film Festival](#) and Restaurant Weeks Kick-off. The festivities begin on Tuesday, July 25 with an array of fresh food samples from local restaurants and a viewing of "Forgotten Farms" a documentary of New England dairy farms. Clark's Elioak Farm hosts the party from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. at 10500 Clarksville Pike in Ellicott City. The event is free to attend, however, a \$5 donation benefitting the Farm City Scholarship Fund is requested to view the film.

Howard County Recreation & Parks Summer Concerts

Sunset Serenades

*Wednesday evenings through August 23, 7:00 p.m.
Centennial Park South, 10000 Route 108, Ellicott City*

On Wednesdays between June 27 and August 23, enjoy this popular summer concert series. The following groups are scheduled to appear in July:

- July 12 – The Scotch Bonnets (Punky Reggae)
- July 19 – Jenee & Black Butterfly (R&B)



The series is free. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, a picnic supper, rent a canoe or paddleboat and enjoy music in the park.

Travelin' Bands

Various dates/locations through August 25, 2017

Enjoy these free concerts. The following groups are scheduled to appear in July:

- Friday July 21, Noon – Rainbow Rock (Children's Music)
The Chrysalis, Symphony Woods at Merriweather Park, 10475 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia
- Friday, July 28, 7:00 p.m. – PANAMA REX (Buffet Tribute)
Schooley Mill Park, 12975 Hall Shop Road, Highland

Refreshments will be available for sale during Sunset Serenades concerts. Also, at all Sunset Serenades concerts the Community Action Council of Howard County, Inc. will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Howard County Food Bank. Check out the [website](#) for a complete schedule and details.

Come Home to Howard County

The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is now accepting applications for its Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program. Applications for the MIHU homeownership program are being accepted through Monday, July 31.



DHCD will hold two free MIHU workshops to explain the program's eligibility requirements and application process for prospective homebuyers and renters. The MIHU RENTERS Information Workshop will be held on Tuesday, July 18 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. The MIHU HOMEBUYERS Information Workshop will take place on Wednesday, July 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Gateway Building as well. Both workshops are free and open to the public; however, registration is required. **To register for the July 18th Renters workshop, visit <https://mihu.renters.eventbrite.com> and for the July 19th Homebuyers workshop, visit <https://mihu.homebuyers.eventbrite.com>.** For more information on either workshop, contact DHCD's Housing Opportunities Programs Division at 410-313-6343.

Open enrollment periods for the MIHU purchase program are held quarterly. Those interested in enrolling should call DHCD's Housing Opportunities Programs Division at 410-313-6343, or visit the [MIHU website](#).

Paint It! Ellicott City 2017

**Thursday, July 6 through Monday, July 10
Historic Ellicott City**

The annual Paint It! Ellicott City welcomes artists and onlookers to historic Ellicott City. Artists set their easels in public spaces and allow us to watch as they capture their perspective of the town. The event features several activities including a Quick Draw competition on Saturday. With a two-hour window, artists will capture the old town and artwork will be available to purchase afterwards. Of course, the juried exhibit is the highlight of the occasion. Visit [Howard County Tourism](#) for more information and plan to enjoy the weekend in Old Ellicott City.

Maple Lawn Hosts Annual Street Festival

Maple Lawn welcomes the community to its annual street festival and fireworks display on Saturday, July 8, 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. along Maple Lawn Boulevard. Enjoy selections from the food vendors, sip offerings from the beer truck, shop for unique items and kids can play in the play area. Bring your lawn chair or blanket to view the fireworks. Click [here](#) for all the details.

Community Event for Our Watershed

The Wilde Lake Village Community Association and the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy present "Our Streams, Our Lake, Our Community: It takes a Village" on Monday, July 17, 7:00 p.m. at Slayton House (10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia).



Attendees will learn about plans for Wilde Lake's revitalization, interact with a panel of local environmental experts and contribute to an ongoing dialogue between residents, Wilde Lake Village, Columbia Association and Howard County to address community concerns about the health, habitat and sustainability of the lake.

This is a FREE event and it is open to the public; however RSVP is required! **Please RSVP by July 7, 2017.**

- Step 1: Go to link and complete the brief survey at <http://tinyurl.com/HoCoWSA-CARES>
- Step 2: Go to link and complete information at <https://wildelakecaresevent.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Contact Bess Caplan at besswlvb@gmail.com, visit <https://www.wildelake.org/wilde-lake-cares-2/> or Terry R. Matthews at trmatt@umd.edu, visit www.howardwsa.org.

Howard County Fair

Enjoy the sights, events and traditions of the 72nd Annual Howard County Fair. From Saturday, August 5 through Saturday, August 12, the Fairgrounds will host parades, agricultural and livestock exhibits and shows, amusement rides and locally made arts and crafts. The Fair will operate from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. daily. Visit the [Fair website](#) to plan your trip.

Join the NeighborRide Team

NeighborRide welcomes new volunteer drivers at any time of the year. Using their own personal cars, volunteers help their neighbors shop, make medical and personal appointments, visit places of worship and other sites. You can sign up for a flexible daytime, evening and weekend schedule and choose the rides that fit your work or personal schedule and are convenient to your home, office or daily routines. No set schedule is required.



The first step is to attend **Orientation**. Orientations are held every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am. An additional evening session will be held on Wednesday, July 25 at 6:00 pm. [Register Now](#) via the website, email volunteer@neighborride.org or call 410-884-7433 to attend orientation. If your schedule differs from the orientation offerings, please call to arrange a time that works for you.

Girls Fire Camp

This two day camp empowers and inspires young women (ages 12 - 16) while encouraging them to be involved in Fire and Rescue Services. Learn about what it takes to be a firefighter, train in CPR and first aid, work as a team, and much more. The next session is from July 29 – 30 at the James N. Robey Public Safety Center (2200 Scott Wheeler Drive, 21104). For more information and to RSVP to this free camp, visit the Fire and Rescue Services' website.

Mosquito Tips

The Howard County Health Department is encouraging residents to focus efforts on virus prevention as the risk for mosquito bites increases with the warm summer weather. Mosquitos are known to carry illnesses like Zika, chikungunya, dengue and West Nile virus. Here are some tips for avoiding mosquito bites:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants,
- Choose an EPA-registered repellent, which will ensure the product has been evaluated for safety and effectiveness,
- Use screens on windows and doors and use air conditioning when available,
- Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out containers that hold standing water like: birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, etc.

When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe for pregnant and breast-feeding women. When applying insect repellent to children, it is directed that adults spray onto their own hands and then apply to child's face. It is also recommended that clothing and gear is treated with permethrin to further protect from mosquitoes. For more information, visit the Howard County Health Department website at www.hchealth.gov. Additional guidelines from the CDC for preventing mosquito bites and Zika can be found at www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention.

Shop Local

Supplement your trips to your local grocers by visiting a Farmers' Market. Click [here](#) to visit any (or all) of the Farmers' Markets in the county.



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